

Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, and David H. Stevens, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Housing and Federal Housing Commissioner, both of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

#### HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine impacts of highway trust fund insolvency, after receiving testimony from Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation; Kathy Ruffalo, Ruffalo and Associates, LLC, on behalf of National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission, and Peter J. Basso, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, both of Washington, DC; and Donald M. James, Vulcan Materials Company, Birmingham, Alabama.

#### MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING ON WATER QUALITY

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife concluded a hearing to examine the impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining on water quality in Appalachia, after receiving testimony from John Pomponio, Director, Environmental Assessment and Innovation Division, Environmental Protection Agency; Randy Huffman, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Charleston; Maria Gunnoe, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Bob White, West Virginia; Paul L. Sloan, Tennessee Department on Environment and Conservation, Nashville; and Margaret A. Palmer, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Solomons.

#### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Maria Otero, to be Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, who was introduced by Senator Harkin, and Philip L. Verveer, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Communications and Information Policy in the Bureau of Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs and U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, both of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee continued consideration of Affordable Health Choices Act, but did not complete action thereon.

#### TRIBAL LAW AND ORDER ACT

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 797, to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 2000, and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the prosecution of, and response to, crimes in Indian country, after receiving testimony from Thomas J. Perrelli, Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice; Larry EchoHawk, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and W. Patrick Ragsdale, Deputy Director, Office of Justice Services, both of the Department of the Interior; Anthony Brandenburg, Chief Judge, Intertribal Court of Southern California; Alonzo Coby, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Fort Hall, Idaho, on behalf of the Fort Hall Business Council; Troy A. Eid, Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Denver, Colorado; and Theodore R. Quasula, Quasula Consulting, Henderson, Nevada.

#### THE MATTHEW SHEPARD HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine "The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009", after receiving testimony from Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, Department of Justice; Gail Heriot, Member, United States Commission on Civil Rights; Janet Langhart Cohen, Langhart Communications, LLC, Chevy Chase, Maryland; Mark Achtemeier, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa; and Brian W. Walsh, The Heritage Foundation, and Michael Lieberman, Anti-Defamation League, on behalf of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, both of Washington, DC.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of B. Todd Jones, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, and John P. Kacavas, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire.